

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012467

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TAGS: OVIP (WOLFF, LESTER)

SUBJECT: WOLFF CALLS FOR STATE DEPARTMENT ACTION ON
GOLDEN TRIANGLE HEROIN

REF: STATE 11517

FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS OF TWO ADDITIONAL PRESS STATEMENTS
RELEASED RESPECTIVELY BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF AND CONGRESSMAN
MURPHY ON JANUARY 16. DEPARTMENTAL PRESS GUIDANCE TO
QUERIES ABOUT THESE STATEMENTS FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

1. TEXT OF CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S STATEMENT: WOLFF CALLS
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PAGE 02 STATE 012467

FOR END OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION FOR NATIONS BALKING ON

DRUG WAR.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SANCTIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING AN END TO DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF NATIONS FAILING-TO COOPERATE IN THE WAR ON HEROIN WERE DEMANDED TODAY BY U.S. REP. LESTER WOLFF (D-N.Y.), CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL.

WOLFF, IN A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH U.S. REP. MORGAN MURPHY (D-ILL.), SAID A RECENT INSPECTION TOUR OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE NATIONS OF BURMA, THAILAND AND LAOS CON-

VINced THE PAIR THAT ONLY THE STRONGEST ACTIONS BY THE UNITED STATES WILL PRODUCE A CUTOFF OF HEROIN PRODUCING POPPIES AT THE SOURCE -- THE MOUNTAINOUS JUNGLE AREAS OF BURMA AND THAILAND -- BEFORE THE CROP IS REFINED AT BORDER AREA LABORATORIES AND REDUCED 90 PERCENT IN BULK TO PACKAGES CARRIED INDIVIDUALLY.

"THAI NARCOTICS OFFICIALS, WITH AMERICAN HELP, HAVE STOPPED THE OLD MULE-CARAVANS OF BULK OPIUM, BUT THE RESULT, UNFORTUNATELY, IS THE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO INTERCEPT REFINED MORPHINE AND HEROIN WHICH MEANS THE UNITED STATES NOW FACES A CHEAP AND PLENTIFUL SUPPLY AND THE THREAT OF A HEROIN EPIDEMIC IN EVERY TOWN IN OUR NATION," WOLFF SAID.

THE TASK OF INTERCEPTION IS DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, WOLFF SAID, "BECAUSE WE STILL HAVE MANY UNUSED WEAPONS IN OUR ARSENAL, SUCH AS AID CUTOFFS AND TRADE SANCTIONS, WHICH WE HAVE NEVER EMPLOYED AGAINST THE POPPY-PRODUCING NATIONS."

"AS A LAST RESORT," THE SIX-TERM CONGRESSMAN ADDED, "I FEEL THAT IF A NATION ULTIMATELY FAILS TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THE ALL OUT WAR ON DRUGS, THEN THAT IS SUFFICIENT REASON TO WITHDRAW DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF THAT NATION."

WHILE THE U.S. HAS HAD SOME SUCCESS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 012467

HIS SUBCOMMITTEE, THE COOPERATION OF BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN HONG KONG, AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THAILAND AND SOUTH VIETNAM, CANNOT OVERCOME "THE CHIEF STUMBLING BLOCK -- BURMA."

"THE BURMESE ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH FIGHTING THE INSURGENTS IN THE HILLS WHO PRODUCE AN ESTIMATED 700 TO 1,000 TONS OF HEROIN POPPIES ANNUALLY, THAN THEY ARE IN STOPPING

THE DRUG TRAFFICKING OF THE WARRING SHAN TRIBES," WOLFF SAID.

"THE BURMESE PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED BY OLD AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT HANDS IN THE AREA WHO ARE STILL FIGHTING THE WARS OF 25 YEARS AGO, AND WHO STILL INSIST THAT EVERYTHING ELSE TAKE A BACK SEAT -- INCLUDING OUR WAR AT HOME TO STOP DRUGS," WOLFF SAID.

WOLFF SAID HE WILL PRESS FOR A MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD TO DISCUSS A MUTUAL

PLAN OF ACTION, INCLUDING STEPPED UP AID TO THAILAND, AND INCREASED PRESSURE ON BURMA.

3. TEXT OF CONGRESSMAN MURPHY'S STATEMENT: MURPHY REPORTS ON VISIT TO GOLDEN TRIANGLE.

MY FIRST EXPOSURE TO THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE OCCURRED IN APRIL 1971 ON A STUDY MISSION WITH CONGRESSMAN ROBERT STEELE (R-CONN.). THE REPORT WE FILED UPON OUR RETURN RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT MIDDLE LEVEL POLICE, CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AND BORDER PATROL POLICE WERE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL NARCOTICS TRANSACTIONS.

A NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM WITH BURMA WAS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT IN 1971 AND IT WAS A GENERALLY ACCEPTED FACT THAT THE PRODUCTION OF AND TRAFFICKING IN OPIUM HAD THE SUPPORT OF HIGH RANKING LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THERE WAS LITTLE DRUG USE IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES AND THIS FACT MORE THAN ANY OTHER EXPLAINED THE LACK OF URGENCY BY THESE COUNTRIES TO ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 012467

I RECENTLY JOINED CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF (D-N.Y.) FOR A WEEK'S INVESTIGATION OF ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS IN THAILAND AND BURMA. I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT SOME OF MY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

IN TERMS OF NUMBERS, THAILAND NEVER LACKED ORGANIZATIONS DESIGNED TO COMBAT THE DRUG PROBLEM. THERE WAS A SPECIAL NARCOTICS ORGANIZATION (SNO) ORGANIZED AS A RESULT OF U.S. PRESSURE AND WITH U.S. MONEY. THERE WERE THE BORDER PATROLS, THE NATIONAL NARCOTIC SUPPRESSION CENTER (PNSC) CREATED BY THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE REGULAR ARMY, AND THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNFDAC).

WHAT THE THAIS DID LACK, HOWEVER, WAS A COORDINATED AND CONTROLLED DRUG PROGRAM WITHOUT ANY OF THE BUREAUCRATIC JEALOUSIES WHICH HAVE TRADITIONALLY PLAGUED THE EFFORT. DURING MY VISIT LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, I WAS MUCH IMPRESSED BY THE DEGREE OF COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN THAILAND'S PRESENT ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT. THIS IS EVIDENCED BY THE THAIS' RECORD NUMBER OF DRUG SEIZURES AND ARRESTS. I WOULD RECOMMEND PERMITTING THE THAIS TO PURCHASE OUR M-16 RIFLES. WE CANNOT EXPECT RESULTS FROM NARCOTICS OFFICIALS FORCED TO OPERATE WITH EQUIPMENT INFERIOR TO THAT AVAILABLE TO THE DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

WHAT WAS FORMERLY CONSIDERED THE U.S. NARCOTICS PROBLEM IS NOW THEIR OWN, HOWEVER. THERE IS A THAI ADDICT POPULATION OF SOME 400,000 PERSONS. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT AWAKENED THE THAIS TO THE NEED FOR AN AGGRESSIVE DRUG PROGRAM.

THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT A RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT AND THE SHAN STATE INSURGENTS IS POSSIBLE. I URGE OUR STATE DEPARTMENT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS IMPROVED STATE OF AFFAIRS AND ENCOURAGE HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS.

IN EARLY JULY OF LAST YEAR A BREAKTHROUGH OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE U.S.-BURMA NARCOTICS CONTROL AGREEMENT.
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 012467

THE UNITED STATES AGREED TO PROVIDE SIX HELICOPTERS AND FUNDS FOR RELATED EXPENSES AND PLEDGED AN ADDITIONAL TWELVE HELICOPTERS. A REPORT PREPARED BY JACK BRADY OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STAFF LAST YEAR ARGUED THAT THERE CAN BE NO SOLUTION TO THE NARCOTICS PROBLEMS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AS LONG AS THE BURMESE PART OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE IS OPERATIONAL.

THE 1974 U.S.-BURMA NARCOTICS CONTROL AGREEMENT WAS A FIRST STEP IN OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE HEADWAY WITH BURMA IN THE WAR AGAINST NARCOTICS. UNFORTUNATELY, I AM STILL WAITING FOR THE BURMESE TO MAKE AN ALL-OUT ATTACK ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. THEY CONTINUE TO IGNORE U.S. OFFERS TO SEND DEA AGENTS TO TRAIN BURMESE AGENTS. THEY APPEAR UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO COMPREHEND THE EFFECTS OF THEIR INACTION.

I DID HEAR RECURRING COMPLAINTS THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID) MADE PROMISES TO DELIVER HELICOPTERS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS BUT FAILED TO KEEP THESE PROMISES. IN VIEW OF THE LACKADAISICAL ATTITUDE OF THIS AGENCY OF

OUR GOVERNMENT, THESE COUNTRIES MUST NECESSARILY DOUBT
THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO CURTAIL THE DRUG TRAFFICKING.
ONLY TWO UNITED STATES HELICOPTERS HAVE REACHED THAILAND
SINCE 1971, FOR EXAMPLE, DESPITE THE DEMONSTRATED NEED
FOR AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE.

IT IS MY IMPRESSION, MOREOVER, THAT CROP SUBSTITUTION
PROGRAMS HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS COMPLAINED THAT THE MARKETS FOR
CROPS GROWN ARE INACCESSIBLE TO FARMERS. THESE OFFICIALS
ARGUED FURTHER THAT INCOME SUBSTITUTION MAY BE THE ONLY
ANSWER UNTIL AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM OF CROP SUBSTITUTION

CAN GET UNDERWAY. AS I HAVE STATED ON MANY OCCASIONS,
THIS WOULD INVOLVE A CASH OUTLAY BY THE UNITED STATES
BUT, IN TERMS OF THE FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL COST OF DRUG
USE, THIS PLAN OF INCOME SUBSTITUTION IS INDEED A
SMALL PRICE TO PAY. KISSINGER

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